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Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 63/155, the present report gives an overview of measures taken by entities of the United Nations system to intensify their efforts to eliminate violence against women, including through increased coordination and collaboration among entities and enhanced support for national efforts to address violence against women.

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I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 63/155 on intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Assembly at its sixty-fourth session, with information provided by the United Nations bodies, funds and programmes and the specialized agencies on their follow-up activities to implement Assembly resolutions 61/143, 62/133 and 63/155, including on their assistance to States in their efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women. The present report is submitted pursuant to that request. It updates the report submitted at the sixty-second session of the Assembly (A/62/201) and should be read in conjunction with that report.

2. Since 2006, the General Assembly, in its resolutions 61/143, 62/133 and 63/155 has called upon the United Nations system to intensify efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women, including through: (a) enhanced coordination (61/143, para. 13(a), 62/133, para. 4, 63/155, para. 21); (b) identification of the expected results of the Secretary-General's campaign "UNiTE to End Violence Against Women" (63/155, para. 7); (c) assignment of adequate resources to those bodies responsible for the promotion of gender equality and women's rights (61/143, para. 16), and completion of a resource flow analysis to assess available resources (62/133, para. 6); (d) consideration of ways and means to enhance the effectiveness of the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women as a system-wide funding mechanism (61/143, para. 14, 62/133, para. 5, 63/155, para. 20); (e) enhanced assistance and support to States in their national efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women (61/143, paras. 9 and 13(b)), 62/133, para. 3, 63/155, para. 17), including support to strengthen national capacities and efforts on the collection, processing and dissemination of data (61/143, para. 12); and (f) development of a coordinated database on violence against women (61/143, para. 19) and development of a set of possible indicators on violence against women (61/143, para. 18, 62/133, para. 7).

3. The report is based on information from 38 entities of the United Nations system and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), as well as six inter-agency efforts of the United Nations system. The information was provided for the inventory of United Nations system activities to prevent and eliminate violence against women,[1] which is compiled by the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs as part of the activities of the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality's Task Force on violence against women. The Division first issued the inventory in July 2007 and compiled updates in January 2008, September 2008 and February 2009. The next update to the inventory will be issued in September 2009. The inventory also provided the basis for the oral reports of the Secretary-General to the fifty-second and fifty-third sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women and to the sixty-third session of the General Assembly, as requested by Assembly resolutions 62/133 (para. 8) and 63/155 (para. 23).

[1] The consolidated "Inventory of United Nations activities to prevent and eliminate violence against women" is available online at: http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/vaw/documents/Consolidated%20Inventory%20of%20UN%20activities%20on%20vaw%20(May%202009).pdf.

II. United Nations efforts aimed at achieving greater coordination and collaboration

4. Several key system-wide initiatives described below have ensured continued priority and further impetus within the United Nations system on the issue of violence against women. Spearheaded by the Secretary-General, these efforts have resulted in increased communication, coordination and collaboration among United Nations entities.

A. Secretary-General's campaign "UNiTE to End Violence Against Women", 2008-2015

5. On 25 February 2008, the Secretary-General launched his campaign "UNiTE to End Violence Against Women", 2008-2015. The campaign provides a collective platform for an unprecedented level of global mobilization to engage a wide range of stakeholders to end violence against women. The campaign focuses on three areas: global advocacy; strengthened efforts and partnerships at national and regional levels; and United Nations leadership by example. The Secretary-General is calling on Governments, civil society, women's organizations, young people, the private sector, artists, the media, the entire United Nations system and individual women and men to join forces in addressing the global pandemic of violence against women.

6. Under the leadership of the Deputy Secretary-General, supported by a high-level steering committee and the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, which serves as the secretariat for the campaign, a framework for action and a communications strategy for the campaign have been elaborated. To further operationalize the framework, a campaign strategy has been prepared to provide the basis for mobilizing resources and for building alliances.

7. The framework provides an umbrella for activities by multiple stakeholders at global, regional, national and local levels in the course of the multi-year campaign. It identifies five key outcomes as benchmarks for the campaign, to be achieved in all countries by 2015: (a) adoption and enforcement of national laws to address and punish all forms of violence against women and girls, in line with international human rights standards; (b) adoption and implementation of multisectoral national plans of action that emphasize prevention and that are adequately resourced; (c) establishment of data collection and analysis systems on the prevalence of various forms of violence against women and girls; (d) establishment of national and/or local campaigns and the engagement of a diverse range of civil society actors in preventing violence and in supporting women and girls who have been abused; and (e) systematic efforts to address sexual violence in conflict situations and to protect women and girls from rape as a tactic of war and the full implementation of related laws and policies. United Nations entities are linking a growing range of activities to the campaign.

8. The campaign is contributing to renewed momentum for action to prevent and address all forms of violence against women. In its first year, the campaign focused on advocacy, awareness-raising and mobilizing resources to support various activities. At global level, a campaign logo and poster have been developed and a

campaign website (http://endviolence.un.org) has been launched. Consultations with non-governmental organizations have been held to explore possibilities for partnerships in advancing the campaign, especially at the field level. All stakeholders are invited to register their campaign contributions on the website under the section "What's Happening?". *Mika*, a play written specifically in support of the campaign, was presented to the Secretary-General at United Nations Headquarters. The Secretary-General is creating a "network of men leaders" to spearhead advocacy and action at the community, national, regional and global levels. The network includes members from diverse backgrounds, including political, religious and civil society, as well as arts and sports celebrities.

9. The Secretary-General has encouraged the Heads of United Nations entities to actively contribute to the campaign, and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has invited Resident Coordinators to lead their country teams to further develop the campaign at the local level. The United Nations information centres, based in over 60 countries, are actively promoting the campaign through a diverse array of activities, such as media workshops, panel discussions, performances, photography and art exhibits, marches and film screenings. The campaign's components for Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean and the Asian and Pacific region are being defined by the Regional Commissions in close collaboration with the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and other United Nations agencies, leading intergovernmental partners and in consultation with women's and other civil society organizations.

B. Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality Task Force on Violence against Women

10. The Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality Task Force on Violence against Women, co-chaired by UNFPA and the Division for the Advancement of Women, made significant progress in achieving its stated aims. Notable results have been achieved with the joint programming pilot initiative which is proceeding in 10 countries.[2] Baseline assessments, as well as national multi-stakeholder workshops on joint programming to develop multisectoral joint programming frameworks, have been initiated or completed in all 10 countries. In addition, joint national committees consisting of stakeholders from Government, the United Nations and civil society have been formed in all 10 countries. In seven of these countries, joint programming proposals have already been finalized by the national committees. Implementation of joint programming activities, led by UNFPA, has commenced in the Philippines and Rwanda. Activities of the joint programming initiative are linked to the Secretary-General's Campaign "UNiTE to End Violence against Women" at the national level. Based on the lessons learned during the joint programming pilot initiative, work on a Manual/Guideline on joint programming on violence against women is being initiated during 2009.

11. The Task Force enhanced timely information exchange and coordination and collaboration among United Nations entities, including through the inventory of United Nations systems activities. After examining the possibility of undertaking a

[2] Burkina Faso, Chile, Fiji, Jamaica, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Paraguay, the Philippines, Rwanda and Yemen.

resource flow analysis on violence against women, the Task Force concluded that its members did not currently have the capacity nor the resources to embark on the necessary methodological and practical work that would be required in order to achieve a useful, reliable and pertinent product. The Task Force completed a revision of its terms of reference and work plan for the biennium 2009-2010, which were approved by the Inter-Agency Network.

C. United Nations Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict

12. United Nations Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict initiative mobilized additional resources and promoted joint programming against sexual violence in conflict, including through the creation of a multi-donor trust fund and deployment of specialists in the field. In this regard, a Senior Adviser and Coordinator on Sexual Violence was posted to the Democratic Republic of the Congo where she developed a United Nations system-wide comprehensive strategy on combating sexual violence and mapped existing and planned activities by international actors. A programme manager was recruited for the joint programme of the Government of Liberia and the United Nations to prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence. The initiative also provided financial support for the recruitment of two United Nations system-wide gender-based violence coordinators in Darfur, the Sudan.

13. The United Nations Action initiative continued to build the knowledge base on sexual violence in conflict-related situations. Research missions to the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) and the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC), led by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, were undertaken to finalize the "*Analytical Inventory of Responses by Peacekeeping Personnel to War-Related Violence against Women*". The Inventory will catalogue examples of good practices in protecting women from sexual violence and inform the training of uniformed peacekeepers. The initiative facilitated the development of an agreed research agenda and guidance on data collection that meets ethical and confidentiality requirements by organizing a meeting of experts, led by the World Health Organization (WHO), in December 2008 on methodologies for collecting data on sexual violence in conflict.

14. The initiative's advocacy efforts increased under the banner "Stop Rape Now". A range of advocacy resources was added to the website (www.stoprapenow.org) to advance understanding and dissemination of Security Council resolution 1820 (2008). On behalf of UN Action, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), in collaboration with V-Day, a global movement to stop violence against women and girls, is leading a campaign "Stop Raping our Greatest Resource: Power to the Women and Girls of the DRC".

D. United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women

15. During the reporting period, Member States, private sector and other donors significantly increased their contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women (Trust Fund), which is managed by UNIFEM on behalf of the United Nations system. In 2008, $22 million was awarded to 28 initiatives in 38 countries and territories. Grantees included

Governments (8 per cent), non-governmental organizations (65 per cent) and United Nations country teams working in partnership with Governments and non-governmental organizations (27 per cent). For the first time, United Nations country teams were invited to apply for funding through the Trust Fund. Demand for support from the Trust Fund continued to greatly exceed available funds, and the Trust Fund has set an annual target of $100 million by 2015 in order to meet the increasing demand. Through its 2009 call for proposals, which focused on national implementation of laws, policies and action plans that address violence against women, the Trust Fund also aimed to contribute to the achievement of the five key outcomes of the Secretary-General's campaign.

16. Over 20 United Nations entities were members of the Trust Fund's programme appraisal committee in 2008. A monitoring, evaluation and knowledge management framework was adopted to enhance the ability of the Trust Fund to generate, capture and disseminate knowledge. The Trust Fund is developing a database to facilitate results-based reporting on grants. An external evaluation of the Trust Fund, commissioned by UNIFEM, was initiated in December 2008 and is expected to be completed in 2009. It will provide recommendations for enhancing the effectiveness of the Trust Fund. As the current strategy for the Trust Fund spanned the years from 2005 to 2008, a new strategy will be adopted in 2009, taking into account the findings of the external evaluation.

E. Inter-agency Cooperation Group against Trafficking in Persons and the Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking

17. The Inter-Agency Cooperation Group against Trafficking in Persons, chaired by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), continued to strengthen cooperation and coordination between United Nations entities and other international organizations to facilitate a holistic approach to preventing and combating trafficking in persons, including the protection of and support for victims of trafficking.

18. The Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking, launched in 2007, convened the Vienna Forum to Fight Human Trafficking in February 2008, with the objectives of raising awareness about human trafficking, forging new partnerships and facilitating cooperation.[3] In 2009, several publications prepared under the auspices of the Global Initiative contributed to the implementation of international standards to combat trafficking in persons, and an increase in the global knowledge based on the topic. One example is a handbook for parliamentarians, produced by UNODC and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU). The Handbook contains a compilation of international laws and best practices developed to combat trafficking in persons. In 2007 and 2008, UNODC conducted a study on the responses of 155 countries and territories to the crime of human trafficking. This research formed the basis of the *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons*, published in February 2009. Guiding principles on memoranda of understanding between key stakeholders and law enforcement agencies on counter-trafficking cooperation were developed in 2009 through an expert group meeting convened by IOM, on behalf of the Global Initiative.

[3] United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (2008), *The Vienna Forum Report: A Way Forward to Combat Human Trafficking*, Vienna.

F. Coordination at the regional level

19. In 2009, the five regional commissions of the United Nations, in collaboration with the Division for the Advancement of Women and the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, commenced work on a project entitled "Enhancing capacities to eradicate violence against women through networking of local knowledge communities" project. The project's objective is to strengthen national and regional capacity to prevent, sanction and eradicate violence against women through enhanced statistical data and indicators, as well as knowledge-sharing, at the regional and interregional levels. Funded by the Development Account, the project is being implemented from 2008 to 2009.

20. Other projects to enhance coordination and collaboration at the regional level to eliminate violence against women have also been developed. For example, in 2008, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), in collaboration with the African Union and other development partners, created the Network on Gender-Based Violence/Violence against Women, in Addis Ababa. The Network is undertaking the following activities: (a) reviewing global and regional legal commitments on gender-based violence and violence against women and analysing the obligations of States; (b) reviewing African Union reporting frameworks in order to facilitate the monitoring of progress and improvement of performance in implementing commitments; and (c) compiling good practices in addressing gender-based violence and violence against women in Africa.

III. Initiatives on violence against women by entities of the United Nations system in support of national efforts

A. Enhanced capacity to support national efforts

21. In order to better support initiatives to address violence against women at the national level, United Nations entities strengthened their leadership, policy frameworks and coordination. During the reporting period, the Secretary-General and senior United Nations officials emphasized on many occasions the gravity of violence against women as a violation of women's human rights and provided programmatic and institutional direction to enhance the effectiveness of the Organization's role in the prevention and elimination of violence against women.

22. Several United Nations entities adopted new policy frameworks and strategies and forged new strategic partnerships to end violence against women. In 2008, 10 United Nations entities[4] issued an Inter-agency Statement on eliminating female genital mutilation, confirming their commitment to support Governments, communities and the women and girls concerned to achieve the abandonment of female genital mutilation within a generation. UNFPA adopted a three-year strategy and framework for action, 2008-2011, to address gender-based violence. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) commissioned an external evaluation of its work on sexual and gender-based violence. Based on the

[4] Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, UNDP, Economic Commission for Africa, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNIFEM, World Health Organization.

results of the evaluation, UNHCR adopted a three-year strategic plan on sexual and gender-based violence in October 2008 and allocated $1.5 million for prevention and response to sexual and gender-based violence. In 2009, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) joined the UNIFEM Global Programme on Safe Cities Free of Violence against Women and Girls. UNAIDS, WHO, the Global Coalition on Women and AIDS and other partners have formed a technical working group to propose recommendations on how to improve attention to violence against women within national HIV/AIDS responses. In June 2008, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee sub-working group on gender released a standard operating procedure template for prevention and response to sexual and gender-based violence in internally displaced persons settings. In April 2009, UNDP held a global conference to identify entry points in order to enhance its work on gender-based violence.

23. United Nations entities collaborated with other stakeholders to strengthen regional approaches. For example, in June 2008, several United Nations entities, in collaboration with the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region and civil society actors, developed a regional action plan to eradicate sexual violence and end impunity in the Great Lakes Region.

24. United Nations entities have increased their capacity to provide advice and support on addressing violence against women and also continue to provide resources within their areas of responsibility. Department of Peacekeeping Operations gender advisers supported national actors to address sexual and gender-based violence. OHCHR gender advisers, to be deployed to regional offices in Fiji, Lebanon, Panama and Senegal, will aim to strengthen attention to violence against women in their programmes and activities. Twenty-five advisers have been deployed through the IASC Gender Capacity Project to build capacity of humanitarian actors at the country level to mainstream gender equality perspectives in programming, including capacity to work on prevention and response to gender-based violence. UNHCR deployed specialists on sexual and gender-based violence in the Central African Republic and Chad. UNDP's Global Programme on Strengthening the Rule of Law in Conflict and Post-Conflict Situations 2008-2011 places emphasis on ensuring access to justice for victims of sexual and gender-based violence and domestic violence in eight countries. In 2009, 11 UNDP country offices will implement projects on violence against women in collaboration with the UNDP/Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery and the Bureau will deploy senior gender advisers to 12 countries. The World Bank's Post-Conflict Fund provides umbrella funding for a range of activities, including work on violence against women. One example from 2008 is a $733,000 grant to administer a "protection from gender-based violence" programme in Côte d'Ivoire.

25. Good practices provide guidance for addressing violence against women in different contexts. Once identified, good practices can be adjusted, replicated and scaled up for broader use to enhance the work of United Nations entities at the national level. Gender advisers from the United Nations peacekeeping missions in Côte d'Ivoire, Sierra Leone and Liberia attended a regional meeting to share best practices and lessons learned for addressing violence against women. In 2008, in collaboration with the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women organized a virtual dialogue on best practices in national implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000).

The dialogue addressed violence against women in conflict and post-conflict situations. In 2009, UNFPA published a second volume of case studies identifying good practices in programming to address violence against women.

26. Training enhances substantive knowledge and accelerates the dissemination of good practices and lessons learned. In Latin America and the Caribbean, the World Bank held an internal half-day learning event on gender-based violence. Several Department of Peacekeeping Operations missions supported, or implemented, training activities for mission personnel and other stakeholders on gender-based violence against women, including in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sierra Leone and Timor Leste. On behalf of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee sub-working group on gender, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs led a pilot workshop in Nairobi for seven country teams from the East African region to build their capacity to implement multisectoral gender-based violence programmes in humanitarian settings, using the guidelines for gender-based violence interventions and the Standing Committee's Gender Handbook in Humanitarian Action.

27. Steps have been taken to strengthen adherence to the United Nations policy of "zero tolerance" for violence against women perpetrated by United Nations peacekeepers. UNHCR led the development of guidelines on establishing community-based complaints mechanisms for sexual exploitation and abuse by humanitarian personnel and peacekeepers through the Executive Committees on Humanitarian Affairs and Peace and Security United Nations-Non-Governmental Organizations Task Force on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse. The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, as co-chair of the Task Force, led the development of field guidance for the implementation of a victim assistance programme in accordance with General Assembly resolution 62/214. UNHCR required all staff to view and discuss the film *To Serve with Pride: Zero Tolerance for Sexual Exploitation and Abuse*, produced by the Task Force. The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) introduced agency-wide training in support of its policy against sexual exploitation and abuse in 2009.

B. Expanding the knowledge base and strengthening data collection and analysis

28. A robust knowledge base and solid data on violence against women are critical to the development and implementation of sound laws, policies, strategies and advocacy at the national level. United Nations entities developed new databases and observatories and supported the collection of statistical information and improvement of methodological tools at the global, regional and national levels.

29. The Secretary-General's database on violence against women was launched on 5 March 2009 by the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations.[5] The database provides the first global publicly accessible "one-stop shop" for information on measures undertaken by Member States to address violence against women, including their legal frameworks; institutional mechanisms; policies, strategies and programmes; preventative measures and training; research and

[5] See www.un.org/esa/vawdatabase.

statistical data; and services for victims/survivors. The database represents a major step forward in capturing the global response to violence against women and is a contribution to the Secretary-General's campaign as it provides insights on measures to achieve the campaign's five key outcomes. It also increases opportunities for exchange of experiences and promising practices in addressing violence against women at the national level. Responses to a questionnaire on violence against women, addressed to Member States in September 2008 form the primary source of information for the database. All Member States are encouraged to provide information for inclusion, including updates on new developments, and the full text of laws, policies and other relevant documents, as they become available. As of 9 July 2009, 78 responses to the questionnaire have been received. United Nations country teams, at the request of Governments, provide support in their compilation. Knowledge about this new tool is growing. From 12 March to 22 June 2009, there were 10,799 visits to the website of the database by people from 173 States.

30. Violence against women is one of the three thematic areas covered by the African Women's Rights Observatory, developed by the Economic Commission for Africa African Centre for Gender and Social Development in collaboration with UNDP and launched in 2008. In 2009, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean launched the Gender Equality Observatory of Latin America and the Caribbean which contains an indicator on violence against women. The Division for Public Administration and Development Management of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs continued to update its Africa Governance Inventory Portal, which contains qualitative and quantitative information on initiatives undertaken to eliminate violence against women. The United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) regularly updates global databases on human trafficking and sexual exploitation of minors.

31. The use of indicators to measure violence against women provides critical impetus to a more systematic collection of data at the national level. This point was highlighted at the expert group meeting on indicators to measure violence against women convened by the Division for the Advancement of Women, the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Economic Commission for Europe, in collaboration with the four other regional commissions, in 2007. The outcomes of that meeting were discussed by the Commission on the Status of Women and the Statistical Commission in 2008 (see paras. 52 and 53 below). In response to a decision of the Statistical Commission in 2009, the Statistics Division initiated a trial compilation of national statistics based on the interim set of indicators on violence against women adopted by the Commission in order to determine their feasibility and relevance. Further attention was given to the issue during the Global Forum on Gender Statistics in 2007, which was jointly organized by United Nations entities and the Government of Italy. Other United Nations entities, including OHCHR, ECLAC and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), are supporting the ongoing work on global indicators. ESCAP convened an expert group meeting in 2008 with the aim of building partnerships between national statistical offices and national women's machineries in the development and use of statistics in policymaking, implementation and monitoring.

32. Knowledge of the costs of violence against women contributes to increased understanding of the impact of such violence on national development. Since the

Division for the Advancement of Women commissioned an expert paper in 2005,[6] methodologies for estimating such costs have further advanced. UNFPA, in collaboration with the International Centre for Research on Women, developed a model for costing violence against women, and collected data in three countries.[7] WHO and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine are collaborating on a study to estimate the global burden of disease attributable to intimate partner violence, sexual violence and child sexual abuse.

33. Improvements in data collection methodologies and measurement tools, as well as increased use of standardized modules and surveys, increase the availability of comparable data on violence against women. The Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, coordinated by UNICEF, continued to collect information on attitudes towards domestic violence, female genital mutilation and child marriage. An event presenting the results of the International Violence Against Women Survey was held at United Nations Headquarters in March 2008. The event was facilitated by the Division for the Advancement of Women, in partnership with the Permanent Missions of Canada and Finland to the United Nations. UNHCR and UNFPA, in collaboration with the International Rescue Committee, continued to develop a Gender-based Violence Information Management System to improve and systematize data collection and information sharing in humanitarian settings. In 2008, technical consultations were conducted to support the roll-out of the system in Kenya and northern Uganda.

34. United Nations entities, including UNIFEM, UNDP, UNODC and UNICRI, supported national efforts to enhance national data collection systems. In Afghanistan, UNIFEM supported the development of a national database to collect and track service-based data on violence against women. In Cambodia, UNDP supported the development of four indicators to monitor gender equality, one of which related to domestic violence. With the support of UNODC, UNICRI and the Government of Italy, a database is being developed on the investigation and prosecution of trafficking cases in Nigeria.

35. Research and analysis of violence against women conducted or supported by United Nations entities continued to inform responses to such violence at the national level. UNICEF published a global study on violence against the girl child, in follow-up to the Secretary-General's 2006 in-depth study on violence against children, which examines the nature, prevalence and impact of violence against girls in the contexts of the home, community, school and institutions.[8] In November 2007, ECLAC published a regional report in follow-up to the Secretary-General's 2006 in-depth study on violence against women.[9] OHCHR issued a publication on the prosecution of rape and other forms of sexual violence and another publication on laws that discriminate against women.

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[6] See http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/vaw/expert%20brief%20costs.pdf.

[7] UNFPA and the International Centre for Research on Women (2009), *Intimate Partner Violence: High Costs to Households and Communities*, available online at: http://www.icrw.org/docs/2009/Intimate-Partner-Violence-High-Cost-to-Households-and-Communities.pdf.

[8] UNICEF (2008), *From Invisible to Indivisible: Promoting and Protecting the Right of the Girl Child to be Free from Violence*, New York.

[9] "No more! The right of women to live a life free of violence in Latin America and the Caribbean".

36. There was an increase in research on the links between violence against women and HIV/AIDS. UNAIDS, in collaboration with WHO, undertook a review of epidemiological evidence of the links between HIV/AIDS and gender-based violence in emergency settings. UNIFEM supported the publication of two studies documenting the relationship between violence against women and HIV/AIDS.[10] The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) carried out research on HIV/AIDS, gender inequality, sexual and gender-based violence and equal property rights in Western Kenya and northern Uganda. The West and Central Africa Regional Office of UNICEF analysed the link between gender-based violence and HIV/AIDS, finding that chronic violence can lead to HIV/AIDS risk behaviours.

37. Forms of violence against women referred to as harmful cultural or traditional practices were the subject of further research. ESCAP commissioned a subregional study on harmful practices as forms of violence against women. In 2008, UNICEF undertook in-depth research into the social dynamics of abandonment of harmful practices and social norms, in collaboration with partners, and UNFPA published the technical report of its Global Consultation on female genital mutilation/cutting. In 2009, the Division for the Advancement of Women, in collaboration with ECA, convened an expert group meeting on legislation to address harmful practices which examined current research and practice from countries around the world.

38. Other topical issues that received increased research attention were violence against women in conflict, humanitarian and disaster-related settings and the connection between urban planning and violence against women. An OCHA expert group meeting identified two priority topics for research regarding gender-based violence in conflict settings: understanding the motivations of such violence and assessing the nature, scope and motivation for sexual violence against men and boys in conflict. An assessment undertaken by INSTRAW in the aftermath of tropical storm Noel in the Dominican Republic, found that there was little attention to, or provision in post-disaster reconstruction efforts for, addressing gender-based violence. UN-Habitat commissioned the preparation of a publication "Using Planning to Combat Violence against Women" and is finalizing, in collaboration with partners, a global assessment of initiatives responding to lack of safety and security for women in their communities.

C. Support for comprehensive legislative and policy development and access to services for victims/survivors

39. The enactment of comprehensive laws is fundamental for an effective and coordinated response to violence against women. Entities of the United Nations system developed several tools to guide legal reform at the national level and directly supported law reform efforts in a number of countries. An expert group meeting on good practices in legislation to address violence against women, convened by the Division for the Advancement of Women, in collaboration with UNODC, in 2008, produced a model framework for legislation on violence against women. The framework recommends the adoption of comprehensive legislation that criminalizes all forms of violence against women, mandates preventative measures

[10] "The Multiple Faces of the Intersections between HIV and Violence Against Women" and "Women, Violence and HIV and AIDS: Exploring Interfaces".

and training of relevant officials, ensures protection and support for victims/survivors and creates mechanisms to evaluate the effectiveness of the law. The framework will be supplemented in 2009 with recommendations in relation to female genital mutilation, so-called "honour" crimes, early and forced marriage, and other forms of violence against women, based on the outcome of an expert group meeting on legislation to address harmful practices, convened by the Division for the Advancement of Women in collaboration with ECA. The Division will publish a handbook on legislation on violence against women in 2009, based on the results of the two expert group meetings. The handbook will serve as a useful tool for government officials, parliamentarians, civil society, staff of United Nations entities and other actors in their efforts to ensure a solid legal basis is in place for addressing all forms of violence against women.

40. The information gathered through the research efforts of United Nations entities, such as UNDP, has been used to inform legislative reform processes, as well as policy development. United Nations entities, including UNIFEM, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, OHCHR, UNDP and IOM, supported the development, revision and implementation of laws to address violence against women, or one of its forms, in over 15 countries in the last two years. They provided technical advice to lawmakers, contributed to national consultative processes on reform and adoption of legislation and gave guidance on the effective implementation of laws. For example, UNDP supported the Rwandan Government in drafting the Law on the Prevention and Punishment of General Gender-based Violence and the Mexican Government in the implementation of the Act on Women's Access to a Life Free of Violence. Several United Nations entities, including the Division for the Advancement of Women, UNICEF, UNIFEM, and UNODC, collaborated with the Inter-Parliamentary Union to strengthen legislative responses to violence against women and children.

41. National action plans and strategies provide a framework for the cohesive implementation of a range of measures to address violence against women. Entities of the United Nations system, including UNIFEM, UNFPA and UNDP, also supported the development and adoption of national policies and plans in at least 15 countries in the last two years.

42. Victims/survivors of violence against women need timely access to integrated care, legal assistance and support services. United Nations entities, including UNFPA, UNIFEM and UNODC, supported the development of integrated care models and referral centres in a number of countries. UNHCR collaborated with health partners to increase access to post-exposure prophylaxis against HIV/AIDS for survivors of rape. Several United Nations entities, including OHCHR, UNIFEM and UNDP, supported the provision of legal aid to victims/survivors. UNRWA provided refugees with access to legal and counselling services. OHCHR piloted a project in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to enhance access to justice for survivors of sexual violence. UNIFEM, UNDP and UNICRI provided victims/survivors of violence against women, including trafficking, with access to services for their empowerment, such as skills training on handicrafts, education grants, counselling, health and financial skills, and micro-enterprise activities.

D. Promoting awareness-raising and advocacy

43. The prevention and eventual elimination of violence against women requires changing attitudes and stereotypes that perpetuate inequality between men and women, as well as those that condone such violence. During the reporting period, the United Nations led awareness-raising efforts against violence against women at the global, regional and national levels. The launch of the Secretary-General's campaign "UNiTE to End Violence Against Women" in 2008 signified the commitment of the United Nations to address this issue at the highest level. In November 2008, the Secretary-General appointed Academy Award-winning actress Charlize Theron as United Nations Messenger of Peace, thereby giving a public face to the promotion of efforts worldwide to end violence against women. UNIFEM's global Internet-based campaign, "Say NO to violence against women", headed by UNIFEM Goodwill Ambassador, Nicole Kidman, obtained over 5 million signatures by 25 November 2008, including those of Heads of State and Ministers from 60 Governments and more than 600 parliamentarians from over 70 countries. These signatures were delivered to the Secretary-General in support of his campaign "UNiTE to End Violence Against Women".

44. Many United Nations entities stepped up support for advocacy and awareness-raising initiatives around a number of key commemorative days, such as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women (25 November), the 16 days of activism to end gender-based violence (25 November to 10 December), International Women's Day (8 March), and the International Day of Zero Tolerance of Female Genital Mutilation (6 February). United Nations entities, including the Department of Peacekeeping Operations field missions, Department of Political Affairs peacebuilding support offices, UNIFEM, UNICEF, UNHCR, UNDP and IOM, mobilized around the 16 days of activism and supported a wide variety of activities, such as radio programmes, round-table discussions, workshops, meetings and conferences, traditional dances, songs, theatre plays, children's drawing competitions and film screenings, as an opportunity to sensitize stakeholders.

45. A significant array of communications tools and media are now available from United Nations entities, including the Department of Public Information, for use in awareness-raising efforts around the globe. United Nations Television produced short films on the subjects of domestic violence legislation in Austria, so-called "honour" crimes in Turkey, domestic violence in Nepal, the prevalence of rape in Burundi, and female infanticide in India. United Nations Radio produced several stories on violence against women, as did the media sections of Department of Peacekeeping Operations field missions. The United Nations news website, Integrated Regional Information Networks humanitarian news and analysis service, and United Nations publications such as Africa Renewal, regularly carried headline stories on the topic. Several United Nations entities, including UNESCO, ECLAC and IOM, developed video spots to raise awareness and combat violence against women, including trafficking. United Nations entities, including the secretariat for the Secretary-General's campaign, the Division for the Advancement of Women and the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality Task Force on violence against women, updated their websites on violence against women to increase their content and user-friendliness. In order to provide ongoing updates on measures undertaken to address violence against women by intergovernmental bodies of the

United Nations system and States at the regional or subregional level, the Division launched a quarterly newsletter on violence against women in October 2008.

46. United Nations entities placed increasing focus on engaging all stakeholders at the national level, including high-level government officials, community and religious leaders, civil society and faith-based organizations, professional associations, community members, men and boys and young people. The UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme on Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting, launched in 2008, involves high-level government officials, networks of parliamentarians, religious leaders, NGOs, civil society and the media to advocate for the abandonment of female genital mutilation. Sensitization of community leaders on the human rights of women, focusing on gender-based violence, including forced and early marriages, was supported by OHCHR in Uganda in 2009. United Nations Volunteers and UNFPA launched a three-year joint project in 2008 to mobilize men and boys as allies for ending violence and discrimination against women and girls. In May 2008, UNHCR and the Sonke Gender Justice Network (Southern African Development Community Region) launched a similar project to engage men and boys as partners in preventing violence against women in refugee camps. WHO continued to work with professional associations, including the International Federation of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, to condemn the medicalization of female genital mutilation. In Cambodia, UNDP supported community conversation sessions to promote understanding of the social and legal issues related to domestic violence. Weekly discussion groups for women, men, girls and families on how to deal with domestic violence were held at UNRWA women programme centres. In 2008, the IOM office in Colombia began implementation of a project to prevent and address gender-based violence against internally displaced persons.

E. Training and capacity-building measures, including the development of tools

47. The United Nations system supported and implemented training and capacity-building initiatives for a wide range of stakeholders, including law enforcement officers, health professionals, civil society actors, statisticians, and the media. These initiatives supported the effective implementation of national laws and policies and promoted high standards in care and support for victims/survivors of violence.

48. A regional capacity-building workshop for judges and parliamentarians from 13 countries in Western Asia was convened, in Amman, by the Centre for Women of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and Division for the Advancement of Women in 2007 and a second workshop took place in 2008. The workshops focused on follow-up to General Assembly resolution 61/143 and on family law. Several United Nations entities, including OHCHR, UNFPA, UNODC and the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in the Central African Republic (BONUCA) supported trainings for police officers and police recruits, as well as military personnel. During 2008, UNIFEM supported police training on violence against women, including sexual violence and human trafficking, in Nigeria and Uganda, as well as training of the military in the Sudan and Burundi, training of Gacaca judges in Rwanda, and training of 100 Vietnamese National Assembly deputies on the implementation of the Family Violence Prevention Law. In Colombia, OHCHR supported training to strengthen the capacity of the Attorney

General's Office to prosecute crimes of sexual violence. UNIFEM convened a regional workshop on coordinated community responses to domestic violence with local government representatives and civil society organizations from Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States.

49. Training and capacity-building for health professionals and service providers were supported by United Nations entities, including UNFPA, UNHCR and UNRWA. UNFPA supported sensitivity training of medical professionals to meet the health needs of women affected by violence with pilot interventions in 10 countries, while other training programmes aimed to strengthen capacity for data collection, appropriate media coverage of the topic, and collaboration with civil society. UNDP, UNESCO and UNICEF worked together in Burundi to provide training and reporting assistance for civil society organizations and police to improve statistics and data collection on violence against women. Training for journalists on violence against women and human rights was organized by OHCHR in Mexico. UNIFEM supported projects to strengthen the capacity of civil society actors in Indonesia, Thailand, Timor-Leste and the Philippines. UNICRI launched the long-distance component of its training on human trafficking for non-governmental organizations in Nigeria.

50. Tools, including guidelines and manuals, developed by United Nations entities, as well as IOM, provide guidance in the provision of services at the national level. For example, WHO is preparing guidelines on health sector response to intimate partner and sexual violence. UNRWA developed guidelines, a referral system and a training course for health staff handling cases of violence against women and children in UNRWA clinics. An e-learning programme for clinical staff to improve their skills to provide appropriate care and support to rape survivors in emergency settings is under preparation by WHO, UNFPA, and UNHCR. UNFPA is working with World Education, a private voluntary organization, to develop a curriculum to address gender-based violence and violence against women in humanitarian/conflict/post-conflict settings. In 2008, INSTRAW, in collaboration with partners, published a toolkit on gender and security reform, which aims at improving the security sector's prevention of and response to gender-based violence. In 2009, IOM published a guide for healthcare providers caring for trafficked persons.

51. United Nations entities, including WHO, UNAIDS, UNODC, UNDP, UNIFEM and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, contributed to institutional capacity-building. UNODC is implementing a project, funded by the United Nations Development Account, to establish women's police stations to address gender-based violence in Brazil and Southern Cone countries. Support from UNDP resulted in the strengthening of the family violence unit of the Kabul Police Force. With UNIFEM support, the Kosovo Police Service and the Kosovo Protection Corps established a gender working group in the Domestic Violence and Child Abuse Investigation section.

IV. Work by intergovernmental bodies on violence against women

52. In its resolutions 61/143 and 62/133, the General Assembly called for the development of a possible set of indicators on violence against women in order to

assist States in assessing the scope, prevalence and incidence of violence against women. The Commission on the Status of Women and the Statistical Commission, pursuant to the requests of the Assembly, held a joint dialogue to discuss indicators to measure violence against women in 2008. At its thirty-ninth session (2008), the Statistical Commission established a "Friends of the Chair" group to examine the feasibility of such a set of indicators. Based on the proposal of the group, the Statistical Commission at its fortieth session, adopted decision 40/110, approving an interim set of indicators, including a request that the Friends of the Chair proceed with their work and report back to the Commission.

53. The following interim set of indicators was adopted by the Statistical Commission: (a) total and age-specific rate of women subjected to physical violence in the last 12 months by severity of violence, relationship to the perpetrator(s) and frequency; (b) total and age-specific rate of women subjected to physical violence during lifetime by severity of violence, relationship to the perpetrator(s) and frequency; (c) total and age-specific rate of women subjected to sexual violence in the last 12 months by relationship to the perpetrator(s) and frequency; (d) total and age-specific rate of women subjected to sexual violence during lifetime by relationship to the perpetrator(s) and frequency; (e) total and age-specific rate of women subjected to sexual or physical violence by current or former intimate partner in the last 12 months by frequency; (f) total and age-specific rate of women subjected to sexual or physical violence by current or former intimate partner during lifetime by frequency. In addition to this set of indicators, the Commission also requested that work be undertaken on methodological aspects of data collection.

54. The Economic and Social Council, including several of its functional commissions, and the Human Rights Council continued their work on violence against women in response to General Assembly resolution 61/143. In 2008, the Economic and Social Council held a round-table discussion on its role in addressing violence against women. The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice is updating the 1997 Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Women in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (see Assembly resolution 52/86). The Commission on the Status of Women held dialogues with the Statistical Commission and with the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. The Human Rights Council considers the question of violence against women in conformity with its annual programme of work (see Human Rights Council resolution 11/2).

V. Conclusions

55. **Through the leadership of the Secretary-General, including as part of his campaign "UNiTE to End Violence against Women" 2008-2015, this pervasive violation of the human rights of women has become a highly visible priority issue for attention by the entities of the United Nations system. The umbrella of the Secretary-General's campaign's framework for action provides a new opportunity for the United Nations system to intensify its support for national efforts to achieve the five key goals of the campaign by 2015. United Nations country teams, in particular, are expected to implement concrete measures as**

outlined in the programme of United Nations activities and expected outcomes, 2008-2015.[11]

56. Several key inter-agency initiatives have been pivotal in enhancing cooperation and collaboration on particular issues, and resulted in better coordinated support for national initiatives. Based on the experiences gained from the joint programming initiative on violence against women of the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality Task Force on violence against women and other relevant efforts, a manual/guidelines on joint programming will be produced. United Nations Action against Sexual Violence in Armed Conflict continued to play a lead role in advocating for an effective response to conflict-related violence against women, mobilizing resources, and enhancing the knowledge base on this topic. Ongoing involvement in and contribution to these efforts by United Nations entities, particularly at the national level, is critical to achieve sustainable impact, draw lessons learned and create tools and guidelines that will facilitate the broad-based application of good practices.

57. While the United Nations Trust Fund has been able to significantly increase the volume of grants, demand for support continued to greatly exceed available funds. In order to meet the increasing demand, the Trust Fund has set an annual target of $100 million by 2015.

58. The Secretary-General's database on violence against women is a unique tool for capturing all measures taken by Member States to address violence against women. The easily accessible and constantly expanding knowledge base provided by the database is critical in supporting targeted and effective action at different levels, by a range of stakeholders. The entities of the United Nations system have a critical role to play in supporting Member States, at their request, in the compilation and regular updating of pertinent information to keep the database as comprehensive and up-to-date as possible.

59. Entities of the United Nations system expanded their support and assistance to States at the national level, including support for data collection and analysis, training and capacity-building, legal and policy development and provision of services for victims, as well as awareness-raising and advocacy. There was further momentum in undertaking research and developing tools to inform legal and policy development. United Nations entities have increased their own specialized capacity in the area of violence against women so as to better support Member States. These efforts should continue and expand in response to the mandates of the General Assembly in its resolutions 61/143, 62/133, and 63/155.

60. Work on indicators to measure violence against women has significantly advanced. There was a notable increase in attention to specific issues, including female genital mutilation, the linkages between HIV/AIDS and violence against women and violence against women in humanitarian and conflict situations. Many other issues and areas require increased attention. There is, for example, a need to increase knowledge about the impact of measures taken and results achieved. Such evidence would give further impetus to the development and implementation of comprehensive legislation, targeted policies and programmes and effective services for victims, including the allocation of resources devoted to such efforts.

[11] See http://endviolence.un.org/pdf/Framework_booklet.pdf.